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Assembly California Legislature



JOHN J. BENOIT
ASSEMBLYMAN, SIXTY-FOURTH DISTRICT

COMMITTEES
• INSURANCE (VICE CHAIR)
• BUDGET
• RULES

August 24, 2005

Inland Empire Congressional Delegation
U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Members:

Upon review of the recently approved federal transportation bill, we, as members of the Inland Empire Caucus, are concerned with the inequitable distribution of California's share of federal transportation dollars, most notably the dramatic cuts in anticipated revenues to Riverside and San Bernardino Counties as well as the Alameda Corridor East project.

As the fastest growing region in the state, it is chilling to anticipate the huge additions of passenger cars, trucks, and rail cargo throughout the Inland Empire in the next six years covered by the funding, with only limited improvements to our existing transportation infrastructure. Indeed, the Alameda Corridor East Project received just \$155 million of the \$900 million requested for all of Southern California. Goods movement into ports and through Southern California to the rest of the country must be highlighted and facilitated from the federal level. There is an indisputable case to be made that the rest of America directly benefits from the huge numbers of imports flowing through California. Maintaining reasonable costs for products absolutely hinges on the ability to transport the goods in a timely and economical manner.


At the state level we have been and will continue to press for transportation dollars through the continued funding of Proposition 42, and by persistent efforts to restore and augment transportation funding as a priority in the state's budget. California's Secretary of Finance, Tom Campbell, has been especially receptive and responsive to the transportation cause and we will continue to tenaciously advocate our cause to him.

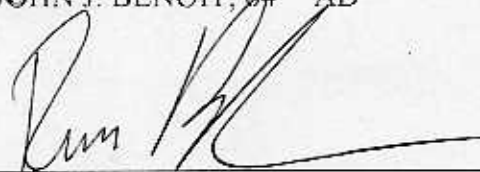
Both San Bernardino and Riverside Counties have contributed their share of funding with the extensions of the local gas sales taxes recently passed under Measures I and A, respectively.

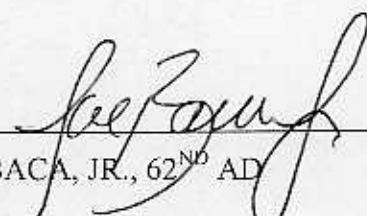
We are requesting that the members of our Congressional delegation band together and advocate for a trailer bill, or other available remedy, as a means to seek additional transportation funding for the Inland Empire and the Southern California Alameda Corridor East. It appears the distribution system is flawed in a way that does not allow the fastest growing region in California to capture its fair share of funding.

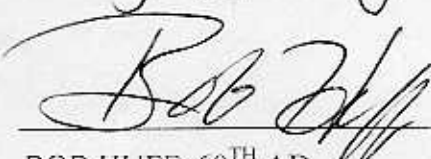
We thank you for your efforts and offer our assistance at any time and to any degree in the effort to bring this matter to a successful and equitable resolution.


Sincerely,

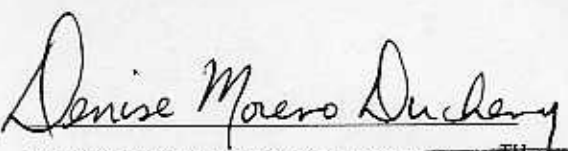

JOHN J. BENOIT, 64TH AD



RUSS BOGH, 65TH AD

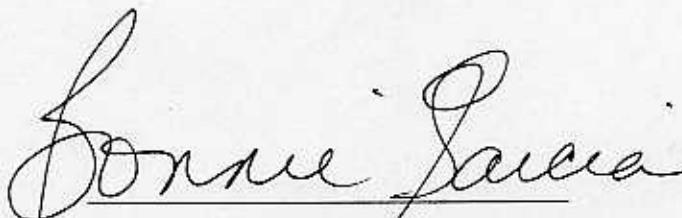

JOE BACA, JR., 62ND AD



BOB HUFF, 60TH AD


DENNIS MOUNTJOY, 59TH AD

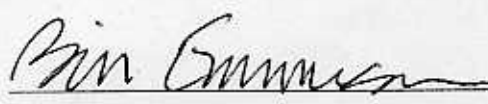

DENISE MORENO DUCHENY, 40TH SD

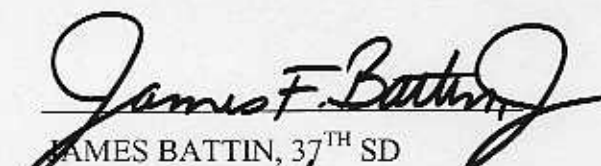

DENNIS HOLLINGSWORTH, 36TH SD

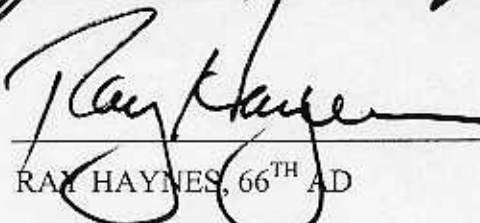

BONNIE GARCIA, 80TH AD


NELL SOTO, 32ND SD


ROBERT DUTTON, 31ST SD


BILL EMMERSON, 63RD AD


JAMES BATTIN, 37TH SD


RAY HAYNES, 66TH AD

cc: **Honorable Barbara Boxer**
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Washington, D.C. 20510

Honorable Dianne Feinstein
331 Hart Senate Office Building
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